

## EDWARD P. ROMAINE

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
FIRST DISTRICT

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## LEGISLATOR ROMAINE AND COUNCILMAN PANICO ANNOUNCE "HELP SOCCER SUPPORT OUR VETERANS" TO RAISE FUNDS FOR 911 VETERANS OF LONG ISLAND

County Legislator Edward Romaine and Town Councilman Dan Panico are pleased to announce the "Help Soccer Support our Veterans" Soccer Challenge on August 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at Dowling College in Shirley. Gates open at 3:30, and there will be an admission fee of \$10 per person. In addition to Legislator Romaine and Councilman Panico acting as MC's of the event, the Director of Suffolk County Veterans Services, Tom Ronayne, will be the event's special guest.

The Soccer Challenge is an annual charity soccer event organized by Hans Lumer that raises funds for various worthy organizations. This year's event features members of the Suffolk County Police Department vs. members of the Center Moriches Fire Department, with all proceeds going to the 911 Veterans of Long Island, an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization that raises funds to assist U.S. military veterans.

Hans Luhmer has been organizing this charity soccer event for six years, raising over \$40,000 to date. In previous years the American Cancer Society was the beneficiary, and more recently donations of items for troops serving overseas were accepted by the Air National Guard 106 Rescue Wing in Westhampton. This year the 106 Rescue Wing will again be on hand accepting donations of items such as international calling cards, ground coffee, tea, hard candy, peanuts, chewing gum, baby wipes, chap stick, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hot chocolate, and cd's, which they will send to our troops overseas.

The founder of 911 Veterans of Long Island, Steve Clark, served for over twenty years as a Suffolk County Police Officer; therefore, it is fitting that this year his charity will be the beneficiary of the funds raised. The organization has distributed over \$200,000 to aid veterans on Long Island, providing assistance in the form of rent and/or mortgage payments, food and clothing, utility payments, vehicle repairs and car repayments, prescription drugs and medical procedure copayments, airline tickets, etc. Scholarships in memory of veterans, the Wounded Warrior Project and Disabled Veteran Americans Transportation Fund have also been provided by the group.

For further information, please call Hans Lumer at (631) 655-6463.